

MANY LIVES LOST IN WESTERN FIRE

POISON SOUP
COOK'S NOTES
REVEAL PLOT

Police Believes Cronos Was
Member of International
Organization.

ATTACK ON CHURCHES?

Many Fires Laid to Band—
Buildings Marked for
Destruction.

Chicago, Feb. 15.—Search was started today for the principals in what is believed by the police to have been a plot to destroy buildings and kill churchmen, both of the clergy and laity, in a dozen cities of the United States. Discovery of the alleged plot, according to the police, resulted from examination of the personal effects of John Allegrini, confidant of Jean Cronos, who is charged with putting poison in soup at a banquet given Archbishop Mundelein, and causing the illness of 100 of the guests.

Chief of Police Healey, Nicholas Hunt, chief of detectives, and Deputy Chief Schuetzler announced today after studying translations of letters found in Allegrini's rooms that they regarded as established the existence of an anti-clerical organization of "destroyers" headed by the "committee of fifteen," of which Cronos and Allegrini are believed to have been members. Police are searching for Cronos, who is a former assistant chief at the Chicago University club, and Allegrini is in jail charged with conspiracy to commit murder.

Four Buildings Marked.
The police were guarded in making public the contents of Allegrini's correspondence, but it was stated that plans and specifications were given for several huge downtown buildings in Chicago which, it is said, had been marked for destruction by the committee. These included the People's Gas Light and Coke company building, one of the largest office buildings in the downtown district, the Union League club, the Federal building and the Grace hotel.

Destruction in October, 1914, of St. Alphonsus' Catholic church in New York a few hours after discovery of a plot to wreck St. Patrick's Catholic church there is believed by Captain Hunt to have been a part of the alleged plot. According to the detective who did the translating of the letters found in Allegrini's rooms, certain ring leaders in a conspiracy which is said to be international in scope, have headquarters in Rome. "They are in the very shadow of the Vatican, according to the letters," said that officer. He added that some of the letters contained detailed descriptions of bombs used by the conspirators. Some of these, he said were designed to wreck buildings, others to kill policemen and others to spread death among church goers.

Have Names of Leaders.
Names of the "committee of fifteen" are said to be in the hands of the police and it was predicted that the arrest of some members would be made before night.

Police working on the cases, pointed out today that the illness of 50 guests who attended the Knights of Columbus banquet, Oct. 2 last, might be due to the activities of the alleged conspirators. At first it was believed that the illness of the banqueters was due to ptomaine poisoning, but discovery of the plot to poison guests at the Mundelein dinner has given strength to the belief that the illness of the other ban-

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WORK OF SAILORS
SAVES A WARSHIP

Philadelphia, Pa., Feb. 15.—Quick work of sailors on the battleship North Dakota at the Philadelphia navy yard saved the ship from serious damage by fire last night. The sailors jumped from their bunks at the sound of the fire alarm and extinguished a slight blaze in the engine room in about three minutes. The fire was started by the blowout of a fuse in a dynamo. Oil caught fire and ignited woodwork.

An alarm was sounded and when the sailors discovered that oil was ablaze they grabbed a bag of sand which is kept in the engine room for such an emergency and threw the sand on the burning fluid, putting out the fire.

The fire was a good test of the efficiency of the fire drills on the various warships. At frequent intervals the fire alarm is sounded and the sailors respond to it just as promptly as if there was a fire.



U.S. IT'S ME FOR THE BOAT—BY HECK!

CHINA PREPARES
TO STAY ATTACK
OF REBEL BANDS

Hankow, Jan. 13.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—Every precaution is being taken by the Chinese government to prevent Hankow and the neighboring cities of Wu-Chang and Han-Yang from falling into revolutionary control. Strict guard is kept over the Han-Yang arsenal, northern troops having been placed in charge of this important arms and ammunition center. Big guns have been placed on Tortoise Hill and Serpent Hill at Han-Yang, which command all three of the cities. These two hills overlook both the Yang-Tse and the Han rivers, which join at this place and make it possible for the force holding them to control all river traffic, as well as the land situation.

Since the Yun-Nan revolt became known in Hu-Peh province, there have been many executions of rebels and their agents at Wu-Chang, the capital of Hu-Peh province, which lies across the Yang-Tse from Hankow. Executions have also been frequent at Hankow and Han-Yang. Consequently there is little discussion of the political situation in public places by the common people and the local newspapers print virtually no news concerning the revolution, excepting official telegrams and dispatches supporting the monarchical movement.

In spite of the various rumors of revolutionary activity, the government appears to have very good control of the situation. Troops have been scattered along the Yang-Tse river in such a way as to prevent the great water course from falling under the control of revolutionists.

Shallow water steamers of the Sino-Japanese Steamship company have been employed by the government, together with Chinese steamers, for the transportation of troops up the Yang-Tse to I-Chang, from that point wooden boats must be used to Chung-King. From there the troops will enter into the province of Kwel-Chow, going overland. Already the first division of Hu-Peh troops has started up the Yang-Tse, and it will be joined by the third division of the northern army. Transportation is extremely difficult both on the upper Yang-Tse and overland from Chung-King to Kwel-Chow province. Consequently the movement will be slow and the troops will not be able to carry heavy guns. However, they are amply provided with rifles and cartridges.

It is apparent that the Chinese government is directing its military operations so as to surround Yun-Nan and prevent the revolution from spreading rather than in an effort to enter Yun-Nan and actually suppress the revolutionaries on their own ground.

For the pacification of the public in Hu-Peh and Sze-Chuen provinces through which the expedition will pass in making its way to Kwel-Chow province, military officers have issued notices that all purchases made by the officers and soldiers will be paid for in cash and that no boats or carts will be commandeered by the army without payment. A military transportation office has been established at Hankow especially for this purpose, with branches at I-Chang and Chung-King.

Heavy Quake
Far Distant
Is Recorded

Washington, Feb. 15.—A very severe earthquake was recorded this morning on the seismographs of Georgetown University here. It lasted more than an hour. The heaviest shocks took place between 7:01 and 7:03 o'clock. It was approximately between 4,500 and 4,600 miles from Washington.

The record of the disturbance shows it began at 6:51 o'clock and continued until after 8 a.m. The direction of the movement was east and west.

Director Tondorf of the observatory said the record indicated a very heavy earthquake which, if it has occurred on land, will be heard from.

Frequently such earthquakes are of subterranean origin and are confined to the ocean's bottom.

Buffalo, N. Y., Feb. 15.—The seismograph at Canisius college here today recorded an earthquake with the preliminary at 6:52 o'clock and the main shock 7:01 to 7:03 o'clock. The tremor ceased at 7:30 o'clock. It was estimated to be about 4,250 miles distant, with direction doubtful. The local record did not indicate a severe shock.

In previous military movements the public has suffered very badly at the hands of soldiers of all armies and consequently the government thought it advisable to allay fear concerning the action of the expeditionary forces.

River Appropriation Bill Taken Up.

Washington, Feb. 15.—The annual river and harbor bill, carrying in the aggregate an appropriation of \$40,000,000 for continuance of work and maintenance of existing projects, was taken up in committee today for report to the house. It provides for numerous preliminary examinations and surveys in various sections of the country.

POLICE SEARCH
FOR DRUG BOTTLE

Chicago, Feb. 15.—Search for the bottle in which was carried the poison which caused the death of Marian Frances Lambert, Lake Forest high school girl, continued today. Detectives are endeavoring to establish a connection between the girl's death last Wednesday and the mysterious absence from Madison of William H. Orpet, University of Wisconsin junior.

The assertion by the police that a drug clerk in Madison had admitted he sold Orpet an empty bottle, and the finding of poison crystals in an ash heap in the cellar of the Orpet home are the principal developments of the last 48 hours in the Lake Forest case.

A gardener on the McCormick estate, of which Orpet's father is caretaker, is said to have admitted putting the poison in the ash heap. This was explained by the elder Orpet by the statement that the poison had been used to kill insects on shrubbery but that its inferior quality had rendered it useless.

CIRCUIT JUDGES
FILE MANDAMUS
SUIT FOR RAISE

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 15.—Cook county circuit court judges whose salaries were raised by the last general assembly from \$10,000 to \$12,000 a year asked leave in the supreme court here today to file a petition for mandamus to compel County Clerk Robert M. Sweitzer of Cook county to pay them their "raise."

Attorney S. S. Gregory and Charles S. Cutting filed the motions on behalf of Judge Frederick Smith and Judge Jess E. Holdom. The circuit judges were elected June 7, the bill raising their pay was passed June 24, but the judges did not assume office until July 13.

So that it might not be held that the raise in salary was given them during their term of office the judges arranged to have their certificates of election held up in Chicago until Governor Dunne had signed the bill. Through an oversight in Chicago last summer an overzealous clerk hastened the election certificates to Springfield. Judge Cutting, as their representative was sent to Springfield and had the bill rushed to the governor for his signature and also managed to keep the election certificates from being filed for several days after they were received here.

County Clerk Sweitzer was not satisfied, it is said, that he legally could pay the judges their increase, so according to Judge Cutting, his clients determined to bring a "friendly suit" to compel payment.

As all circuit court judges were interested in the suit and as they sometimes sit on the appellate court bench there was no judicial body lower than the supreme court of the state which might consider the case without being subjected to criticism, according to Judge Cutting.

Grinnell Aviator Makes Record Flight.

Grinnell, Iowa, Feb. 15.—W. C. Robinson, Grinnell aviator, made the record flight of his career yesterday afternoon when he ascended 14,000 feet. He was in the air 1 hour and 53 minutes. On the ground it was 30 degrees above zero, at 4,000 feet above it was 40 degrees, and from 10,000 to 14,000 feet it was 10 degrees above.

DAY IN CONGRESS

SENATE.

Resolution introduced to declare new order of German admiralty contrary to American foreign policy.

Tillman bill for government-owned armor plate factories taken up.

Hearings on confirmation of Louis D. Brandeis for supreme court was resumed.

HOUSE.

General debate on postoffice appropriation bill was resumed.

Rear Admiral Grant testified before naval affairs committee.

Judiciary committee voted to take up prohibition amendments at this session, but postponed woman suffrage amendments until next December.

LIST OF DEAD
IN BIG MINE
DISASTER 21

Fire Breaks Out During the
Night and Many Perish—
Nine Bodies Found.

RESCUERS SEEK LOST

Men Brave the Flames and
Gases to Hunt Comrades
in Smoldering Ruins.

Butte, Mont., Feb. 15.—Twenty-one men probably have perished, according to the rescue workers at the Pennsylvania mine of the Anaconda Copper Mining company, in which fire broke out in one of the levels while 220 miners were at work last night. Nine bodies had been raised from the mine before noon and 12 were unaccounted for.

The fire at the 1,200-foot level of the shaft was still burning at noon, but was under control.

Butte, Mont., Feb. 15.—Twenty-one miners lost their lives in a fire last night in an air shaft of the Pennsylvania mine of the Anaconda Copper Mining company. Twelve others are missing. The fire still was burning fiercely today.

In the rush and excitement of the fire several miners failed to report off shift. The fate of these men, probably a dozen, was in doubt.

Neill Brennan and William Mitchell, assistant foremen, were among the first of the rescuers to go underground and they came up several times before they were finally overcome. Their bodies were recovered.

John Gille, general manager of the Anaconda Copper Mining company, said the fire might have originated from any of a dozen causes, including careless use of a candle, or a short circuit.

Hope for Missing Ones.

A new ventilating system was installed in the mine today which changed the air currents. There is still hope that some of the missing men may have escaped into the workings of other properties.

Within a few minutes after the fire was discovered in the timbering at the 1,200 foot level near the shaft, gas fumes and smoke poured into the higher workings of the mine. Station tenders were ordered to warn the hundreds of miners, some of whom were as much as a quarter of a mile from the shaft.

Signals to the engineer from the cage came from half a dozen levels at once. Insistent calls came from the 500 foot level. One cage full of men was taken from there but when it was again lowered to this level there were no men at the landing. William G. Mitchell, assistant foreman of the mine, and Jack Brennan, a miner who volunteered, were quickly lowered to the 500 foot level. A few minutes later their bodies were found by first aid rescue crews. Both were overcome within a few yards of the shaft. First aid teams with complete equipment of respirators and oxygen helmets had great difficulty in penetrating the drifts.

Most of the dead and missing men were at work on the 500 foot or adjoining levels.

Officers of the Anaconda company gave out a statement saying they had no means of determining the cause of the fire.

DOG SAVES LIVES
FRATERNITY BOYS

Lafayette, Ind., Feb. 15.—"Bob," the bulldog mascot of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity of Purdue university, saved the lives of the 24 members by arousing them when the fraternity house caught fire today. Except one student, who was rescued by firemen, all escaped down fire ladders. The building was destroyed, loss \$15,000.

PEOPLE FLEE AS
LEVEES CRUMBLE

Natchez, Miss., Feb. 15.—Mississippi river floods were sweeping today through two new breaks in the levee on the Louisville side, about six miles from Newellton.

The 2,000 inhabitants of Newellton, St. Joseph and Waterproof, La., in the flood's path, were fleeing from their homes on special trains for this city.

Federal engineers said that Tensas, Concordia, Franklin and Catahoula parishes would be inundated, the last two partly.

THE WAR
TODAY

The most serious battles on any of the war fronts are still going on in northern France, where the Germans claim to have made notable gains in the Artois region.

In the Balkans the allies are said to be extending their positions around Saloniki, concentrating troops as far forward as the Bulgarian frontier.

From Athens comes a report that the Turks are sending large reinforcements to their armies in Mesopotamia, where the British on the Tigris are trying to push their way to Kut-el-Amara and the relief of their beleaguered army there.

Recent Petrograd advices have pointed out that the Russian operations in the Caucasus and in Persia might eventually be joined with the British along the Tigris. Whether this possibility or other reasons has caused the Turkish government to increase its force in Mesopotamia has not developed.

Austrian aeroplanes are active on the Italian frontier, having dropped bombs yesterday on Milan, killing one person and injuring five.

Advices received in London state that in an action between Belgians who are invading German East Africa in the Lake Kivu district and a German force heavy losses resulted on both sides. The fighting there, the dispatch says, still continues.

It is announced semi-officially in Paris that despite the seeming great activity, the German attacks in question are in reality only local actions without gains of significance. It is declared that the French could easily undertake similar actions but are refraining from doing so because the results are not worth the price that has to be paid.

German news sources report great damage to the French fortress of Belfort in the recent shelling by long range German guns.

Following their visit of yesterday to Milan, Austrian aircraft have raided Monza, 10 miles to the northeast, one person being killed and five injured by bombs. Aeroplanes which appeared above Brescia were driven away by anti-aircraft guns.

Latest Bulletins

London, Feb. 15, (1:08 p. m.)—Reuter's correspondent at Vienna, Italy, says that hostile aeroplanes bombed the Italian town of Schio, 15 miles from Vienna, yesterday, killing six persons and wounding others.

Washington, Feb. 15.—George T. Marye, American ambassador to Russia, is understood to be in poor health as a result of hard work and probably will retire. His secretary, Ray Baker, saw Secretary Lansing today. Mr. Lansing later said Mr. Marye had not resigned.

Keokuk, Iowa, Feb. 15.—Earl Hagerty, son of a farmer living near Alexandria, Mo., six miles south of this city, is being held for \$2,000 ransom by Mexican bandits in Sonora state, Mexico, according to a mysterious letter received by his father, William Hagerty.

Decatur, Ill., Feb. 15.—"The probable restoration of a monarchy in China does not mean that the revolution of 1911 has completely failed," declared Rev. S. H. Littell, missionary from China, who has just returned from the orient. In an address today before the laymen's missionary convention of the central west.

Iowa City, Ia., Feb. 15.—The federal district court at Chicago has approved the lease by the Muscatine-Iowa City Interurban Railway company of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad company's tracks between Muscatine and this city, according to word received here today. Service over these tracks by the interurban company will begin March 19, it was announced. Two cars will operate on a two-hour schedule.

London, Feb. 15.—Parliament reassembled today. King George's speech from the throne was read.

Berlin, Feb. 15, (via London, 6:16 p. m.)—British positions over a front of 800 yards near Ypres, Belgium, have been captured by the Germans, the war office announced today.

Athens, Greece, Feb. 15.—The chamber of commerce of Saloniki places the loss caused to 80 merchants there by the recent Zepellin bombardment at 5,640,000 francs.

CHARGE CAST
BY BRANDEIS'
FOES FUTILE

Enemies of Wilson's Choice
for Bench Getting Little
Satisfaction.

ASK MELLEN TO APPEAR

Head of the New Haven Railroad
Declines to Testify
Against Appointee.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Investigation into President Wilson's nomination of Louis D. Brandeis of Boston to the supreme court bench was resumed today by the senate judiciary subcommittee. Representatives of the United Shoe Machinery company, with which Mr. Brandeis formerly was associated, including S. W. Winslow, president of the company, appeared as witnesses.

The committee sought testimony regarding charges of "unethical conduct" on the part of Mr. Brandeis in his relations with the United Shoe Machinery company to the effect that after serving as its attorney and director he withdrew and later acted as counsel for a group of manufacturers in a suit against the company as an unlawful trust.

The possibility of extending the inquiry into New Haven railroad affairs by testimony of Charles S. Mellen, president of the road, was practically passed over on receipt of a telegram from Mr. Mellen saying he had no evidence on Charles W. Barron's charge that Mr. Brandeis had helped an attempt to "wreck the New Haven road." The committee may consider whether to call Mr. Mellen later and make some further inquiries.

Nothing Against Brandeis.

When the hearing on the nomination was resumed today Senator Walsh read this telegram from Mr. Mellen:

"I have no information of any character that would be of any value to the sub-committee on the Brandeis nomination. I have no papers that have any bearing on the case. Under these circumstances may I not be excused from attending?"

Senator Walsh said in the absence of Chairman Chilton he wired Mr. Mellen:

"Mr. Barron testifying before judiciary committee Thursday asserted you could testify to facts establishing the charge that Brandeis was employed to wreck the New Haven road. Having in mind your telegram of today, please wire whether you can give committee any information that will shed light on truth or falsity of the charge."

To that Senator Walsh received another message from Mr. Mellen reiterating that he had no information whatever on this subject.

Question Left Open.

Today the committee decided to leave open the question of whether Mr. Mellen should be subpoenaed.

Senator Clark said he had supposed Mr. Brandeis was quite familiar with affairs of the New Haven road and also that he had read statements from Mr. Mellen, "assailing Mr. Brandeis in most violent terms, so violent that I did not see how they could be true."

S. W. Winslow, president of the United Shoe Machinery company, was called as the first witness, but yielded to Hollis R. Bailey, a Boston attorney, who gave testimony relative to Mr. Brandeis' connection with the so-called Warren will case.

Succumbs After Operation.

London, Feb. 15, (9:41 a. m.)—Viscount Ridley has died in Newcastle, after undergoing a serious operation. He was best known as chairman of the tariff reform league.

THE WEATHER

Forecast Till 7 P. M. Tomorrow, for Rock Island, Davenport, Moline and Quincy.

Fair tonight and Wednesday; warmer Wednesday, with the lowest temperature tonight about 20 degrees above zero.

Temperature at 7 a. m. 23. Highest yesterday 27, lowest last night, 20.

Velocity of wind at 7 a. m. 3 miles per hour.

Precipitation none.

Relative humidity at 7 p. m. 77, at 7 a. m. 76, at 1 p. m. today 59.

Stage of water 10.1, a fall of .2 in last 24 hours.

J. M. SHERIER, Local Forecaster.